

Next GARS meeting on November 10 @ 7:00 p.m.
Activating Desecheo Island, One of the Rarest DX Entities in the World

The GARzette

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
November 2009 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 18, Issue 11

GARS helps with Jamboree; 50 scouts earn merit badges

Fifty Boy Scouts earned their radio merit badges on Oct. 17, thanks to help from the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS). The club provided communicators and radios for the scouts to participate in their annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).



JOTA is an annual event where Boy and Girl Scouts from around the world speak to each other via amateur radio. Since the first Jamboree-on-the-Air in 1958, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years.

Nearly 70 local scouts in total turned up for JOTA, which was held as part of the GARS Fall Frequency Festival at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Among those club members who participated were *Steve Back, WB2OGY*; *Jeff Lee, AF4JL*; *Earl Whatley, AF4FG*; *Will Perkins, W1ZRZ*; *Paul Kelley, W4KLY*; *Dozier*

Griffith, WA4DEO; and *Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV*. The stations operated as KK4BSA.

Said Lee, who is also an advisor for Venture Crew 73: "What a great way to show off our hobby to a younger generation.

"As I was filling out merit badge cards for the scouts, I asked them



Lee, AF4JL

what they liked the best," he continued. "The unanimously said talking to someone on the radio. It wouldn't have been possible to work with so many boys and allow them to make HF contacts without the help of the club."

"We have operated a JOTA station for several years," Schklar said, "but this is the first that we offered a merit badge as part of the day's activities. Our online registration for the 15 seats which we originally planned filled almost immediately. We stretched it to 30 and then finally to 45. We still turned away several for the class, but invited others to the day's radio activities.

According to Schklar, the club set up 75-, 40-, 20- and 15-meter stations so all the scouts and parents could participate on the air. The club also served up hot dogs and chips for lunch.

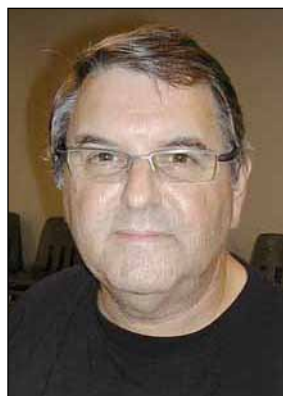
"This was an outside event at a local community park. We rented a pavilion in anticipation of wet weather, and it turned out to be a great investment. Weather predictions were for cool weather and dry. High was in the upper 40s with a little drizzling and light rain."

Below: Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC, demonstrates ham radio to scouts.



A note from the President

Radio Sport, well it does help explain contesting to my friends and family when they see me sitting over the black box with lights, talking to myself. Especially the ones that think watching a ball game is a sport. This past weekend I worked the CQWWSSB contest for about 12 hours out of the 48. Other than Field Day, probably the most hours I've put into a contest. Had fun. Can't say a lot for the score. But, I'm learning.



**Norm Schklar
WA4ZXV**

Dec. 4 is the holiday party. We'll be taking sign-ups at the next meeting, and we have a PayPal option on the web site. These are a fun event and it's nice to get some of the family to join us. After all, if it were not for the family putting up with our frolicking over radios, we wouldn't enjoy them so much. Don't forget, we need to know if you plan to be there.

GARS Jamboree on the Air 2009 was a great success. Thanks Jeff AF4JL, Steve WB2OGY, Earl AF4FG, Will W1ZRV for helping 50 scouts earn their Radio Merit Badge. Also big thanks to ARES and Crew 73. Of course there were about 15 additional GARS members there operating stations or helping with logistics.

Jan. 9, 2010 is TechFest. We're expecting a huge crowd. Be sure to get it on your calendar. Be sure to be there. Be sure to invite your friends.

My five band fan dipole which I sent back to the factory for some modifications is now in my hands. I'm anxious to get it back in the air.

73,

Norm, WA4ZXV

Another note ... from the editor

First, let me extend apologies all around for the lateness of this issue of the *GARzette*. Unfortunately, this has been a tough month for me; I've been laid up in bed because of health issues -- nothing life-threatening, just damned inconvenient. I've also been missing nets, and now you know why. I'm hoping my little purgatory will end by the time our next issue rolls around.

The good news? Everyone really pitched in to fill this issue of the *GARzette*. Norm, WA4ZXV, did his usual yeoman's job by contributing several pieces. Brian, N4TRB, turned in an interesting article on planes and radio. Earl, AF4FG, got all poetic on us over the hamfest. And new member John, W4NWY, volunteered to take pictures at the hamfest when I couldn't make it. GARS is a good club. This issue couldn't have happened without the contributions of you, its members.

Jim, N2EST

Other officers:

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to n2est@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to The *GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional info contact:
Newsletter Editor:
Jim Massara, N2EST
(678) 380-8025

Flowers for Susan; a funny hat for Mike

At last month's meeting, outgoing Georgia Section Manager (and former GARS president) *Susan Swiderski, AF4FO*, was presented with flowers by the club for her service to ham radio. Her OM (and chauffeur) *Mike, K4HBI*, was presented with a tinfoil hat. If anyone can tune up that hat, Mike can.



Ham 'doctor' to speak

QST Technical Editor *Joel Hallas, W1ZR*, will speak to Atlanta hams on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Roswell City Hall. Hallas, best known for his "Ask the Doctor" column in *QST*, will answer technical questions from the audience. Admission is free. The session is sponsored by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League. For more information, email kj4he@nfarl.org.

BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You

If you are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities and have an interest in radio technology, Venture Crew 73 is for you.

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Marguerite D'Youville Catholic Church, 85 Gloster Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month. We enjoy:
 - Camping
 - Hiking
 - Horse Back Riding
 - Shooting Sports
- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of amateur radio.
- For more information, either show up at our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY, Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

- Phone: 770-712-9069
 - Email: committeechair@venturecrew73.org
- Jeff Lee, AF4JL, Venture Crew 73 Advisor
- Phone: 678-475-3165
 - Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

WD4STR
145.060 - (600KHZ)
440.550 + (5MHZ)

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Flying classrooms – for radio operators

By Brian R. Page, N4TRB

When my company sent me to Toronto a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to pop into the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. There, amongst the world's largest collection of operational vintage aircraft, I discovered an interesting little plane with a radio, though not ham radio, connection.

One of the airplanes that wasn't in flying condition was a pleasant little two-seater called the Fleet Fort Model 60K which has the distinction of being the only aircraft completely designed and built by Canadians during World War II. Canadians made plenty of airplanes during the war years, but these others were all British or American models manufactured under license. The 60K, however, was all Canadian (figure 1).

The Fleet Fort was originally intended as a transitional trainer, filling the gap between the Tiger Moth biplanes in which new pilots earned their wings, and fighter aircraft such as the Hawker Hurricanes they would fly into combat. Unfortunately, the 60K was a sweetheart, and an easy one at that. It was too easy to fly. It didn't sufficiently challenge the student pilots destined for the high-performance fighters. But, by 1941, the Royal Canadian Air Force was stuck with some 100 Fleet Fort 60K aircraft. What were they to do? The solution: turn the Fleet Forts into flying classrooms – for radio operators.

Instead of being a pilot trainer, the rear seat was outfitted with radio equipment and budding combat radio operators took to the skies. The main radio (figure 2) was a 5-band receiver manufactured by RCA Victor Company Limited. It

has two antenna connections, one for a main antenna and another for a "sense" antenna which allowed for radio direction finding (RDF) – an important skill needed to guide long-range bombers such as the Avro Lancaster back to base at the end of a bombing run over Nazi Germany.

Other equipment in the cockpit includes a Station Box to select functions such as transmitting or RDF, along with what

appears to be a Bendix Radio remote control head for a transmitter, and power supply controls.

It's impossible to look upon this relatively primitive equipment and fragile little aircraft without feeling immense respect and gratitude to the young men who trained as wireless operators and then flew into battle where the odds were stacked against their safe return.

Other photographs from my visit may be found on my web site

at: <http://n4trb.com/Aerospace/CanadianWarplane/CWHM.html>



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Stone Mountain Hamfest, Nov. 7-8

Photos by John Astleford, W4NWY



REFLECTIONS ON THE HAMFEST (With apologies to Sir Walter Scott)

By Earl Whatley, AF4FG

Breathes there a Ham with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
"I wish I had one of those"
"I really don't need that, but..."
"Maybe I can get one next year"

Whose heart hath ne'er
within him burn'd
"I really want that radio"
"I really do need that"
"I've got to have one of those"

As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
"I think she'll understand"
"Maybe she won't notice"
"How can I hide this til the time is right"

If such there breathe, go, mark him well;
He'll need your support
Maybe his excuses will work for you
Wives can be so unreasonable

And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
But the radio is mine!

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule.

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m.
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7 p.m.
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street, Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 a.m.
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9 a.m.
Marietta First United Meth. Church
Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave.
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(707)973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7 p.m.
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd.
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3-5 p.m.

We had another great ham exam session on Sept. 19 at the Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge.

VEs present included *Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV*; *David Bruse, W4DTR*; *Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN*; *Steve Back, WB2OGY*; *Mike Swiderski, K4HBI*; *Susan Swiderski, AF4FO*; and *Brian Page, N4TRB*.

Five people took their exams. Two upgraded to General, and three are new Technicians.

These tests are given at 3:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month except December.

If you want to take a test, you should bring a photo ID (e.g. driver's license, student ID, etc.), your original license (if you have one) and a copy of the license, as well as original CSCE and copy for prior elements passed. Minors must have two forms of ID and a Social Security number. Be sure to bring a pen and pencil with eraser, a calculator with its memory cleared, and an exam fee of \$14 cash (checks are not accepted). Walk-ins are welcome. No pre-registration is required.

73,

Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV

Webmaster: Lawrenceville
Masonic Lodge No. 131

Lodge web page: <http://vlodge131.org>

Email: kf4tqv@charter.net

<http://webpages.charter.net/kf4tqv>



Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 S. Perry St.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
(770)-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218
77 Atlantic Dr.
www.w4aql.com
Alexander G. Carver
(404)894-2936
acarver@ece.gatech.edu

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist
Church
Intersection of Annistown
Rd & Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League
Masonic Lodge
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, Georgia
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10
AM

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License _____ Class _____ Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
(770) 945-0161
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Unibody and Frame Repair

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

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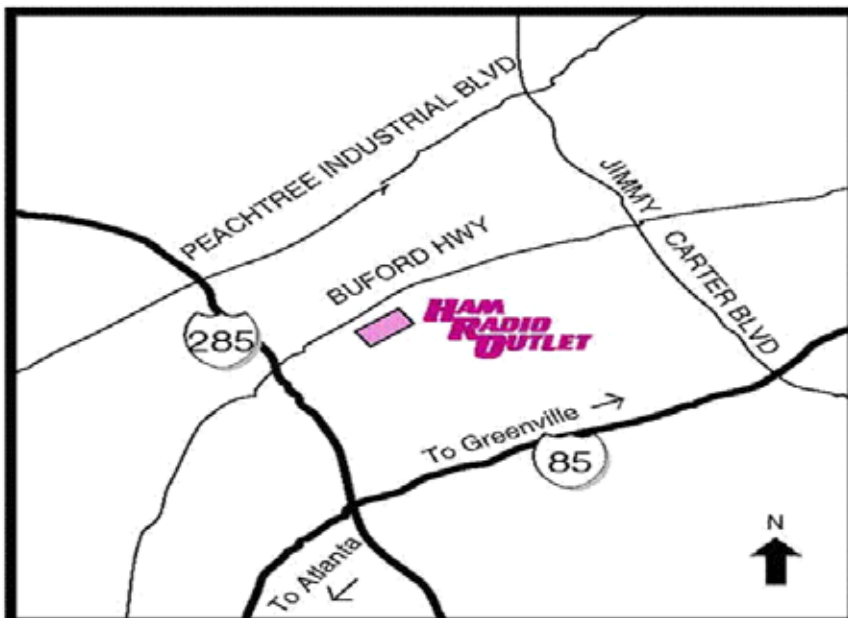
6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax: 770-263-9548
e-mail: atlanta@hamradio.com
hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

John, KI4LMA
Dale, W4GCL

Bill, W5RQR
Jim, N1ABM

David, AI4XL
Josh, W4JDH

Tom, KB4HQA
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West Mountain

Cushcraft
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Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Valor
Van Gorden
MFJ
Ameritron
Comet

Gwinnett Amateur Radio
Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS Recurring Calendar

- *Monthly club meeting* is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

Check the [website](#) for location.

- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: *GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net* on the GARS 2 meter repeater.

- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: *GARS 6 meter net* on the GARS 6 meter repeater.

- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: *GARS Weekly Family Breakfast*, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive,

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sharonadcock@mindspring.com

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www.sharonadcock.prudentialgeorgia.com

**GARS Special-
ist
Top Negotiator**



Helping hams with the sale and purchase of their properties takes extra time, effort and dedication. Not every agent is willing to make that commitment. Call me for when you or your friends and family are ready to make a move.

* * References available upon request.